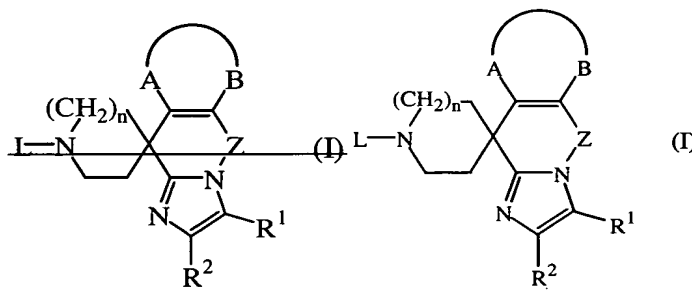


This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-15 (canceled).

16. (currently amended) A compound of formula



or a N-oxide, an addition salt, a quaternary amine or a stereochemically isomeric form thereof wherein

R^1 is hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, halo, formyl, carboxyl, C_{1-6} alkyloxycarbonyl, C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl, $N(R^3R^4)C(=O)-$, $N(R^3R^4)C(=O)N(R^5)-$, ethenyl substituted with carboxyl or C_{1-6} alkyloxycarbonyl, or C_{1-6} alkyl substituted with hydroxy, carboxyl, C_{1-6} alkyloxy,

C_{1-6} alkyloxycarbonyl, or C_{1-6} alkyl substituted with hydroxy, carboxyl, C_{1-6} alkyloxy,

C_{1-6} alkyloxycarbonyl, $N(R^3R^4)C(=O)-$, $C_{1-6}alkylC(=O)N(R^5)-$, $C_{1-6}alkylS(=O)_2N(R^5)-$ or $N(R^3R^4)C(=O)N(R^5)-$;

wherein each R^3 and each R^4 independently are hydrogen or C_{1-4} alkyl;

R^5 is hydrogen or hydroxy;

R^2 is hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, hydroxy C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkyloxy C_{1-6} alkyl, $N(R^3R^4)C(=O)-$, aryl or halo;

n is 1 or 2;

-A-B- represents a bivalent radical of formula





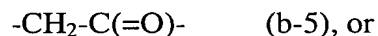
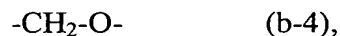
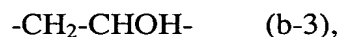
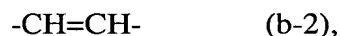
wherein each hydrogen atom in the radicals (a-1) to (a-3) may independently be replaced by

R^6 wherein R^6 is selected from C_{1-6} alkyl, halo, hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkyloxy, ethenyl substituted with carboxyl or C_{1-6} alkyloxycarbonyl, hydroxy C_{1-6} alkyl, formyl, carboxyl or hydroxycarbonyl C_{1-6} alkyl;

each Y independently is a bivalent radical of formula $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{S}-$ or $-\text{NR}^7-$;

wherein R^7 is hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl;

Z is a bivalent radical of formula

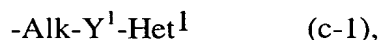


with the proviso that the bivalent radicals (b-3), (b-4), (b-5) and (b-6) are connected to the nitrogen of the imidazole ring via their $-\text{CH}_2-$ moiety;

wherein p is 1, 2, 3 or 4;

L is hydrogen; C_{1-6} alkyl; C_{2-6} alkenyl; C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl; C_{1-6} alkyloxycarbonyl; C_{1-6} alkyl substituted with one or more substituents each independently selected from hydroxy, carboxyl, C_{1-6} alkyloxy, C_{1-6} alkyloxycarbonyl, aryl, aryloxy, cyano or $\text{R}^8\text{HN}-$ wherein R^8 is hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkyloxycarbonyl, or C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl; or

L represents a radical of formula



-Alk-NH-CO-Het² (c-2) or

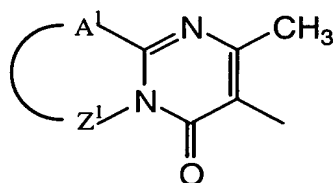
-Alk-Het³ (c-3) ; wherein

Alk represents C₁₋₄alkanediyl;

Y¹ represents O, S or NH;

Het¹ and Het² each represent furanyl, tetrahydrofuranyl, thienyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl or imidazolyl each optionally substituted with one or two C₁₋₄alkyl substituents; pyrrolyl or pyrazolyl optionally substituted with formyl, hydroxyC₁₋₄alkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, C₁₋₄alkyloxycarbonyl or with one or two C₁₋₄alkyl substituents; thiadiazolyl or oxadiazolyl optionally substituted with amino or C₁₋₄alkyl; pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl or pyridazinyl each optionally substituted with C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkyloxy, amino, hydroxy or halo; and

Het³ represents furanyl, tetrahydrofuranyl, thienyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl or imidazolyl each optionally substituted with one or two C₁₋₄alkyl substituents; pyrrolyl or pyrazolyl optionally substituted with formyl, hydroxyC₁₋₄alkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, C₁₋₄alkyloxycarbonyl or with one or two C₁₋₄alkyl substituents; thiadiazolyl or oxadiazolyl optionally substituted with amino or C₁₋₄alkyl; pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl or pyridazinyl each optionally substituted with C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkyloxy, amino, hydroxy, halo, 4,5-dihydro-5-oxo-1H-tetrazolyl substituted with C₁₋₄alkyl, 2-oxo-3-oxazolidinyl, 2,3-dihydro-2-oxo-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl or a radical of formula



wherein

A¹-Z¹ represents S-CH=CH, S-CH₂-CH₂, S-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂, CH=CH-CH=CH, or CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂;

aryl is phenyl or phenyl substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents each independently selected from halo, hydroxy, C₁-₄alkyl, polyhaloC₁-₄alkyl, cyano, aminocarbonyl, C₁-₄alkyloxy or polyhaloC₁-₄alkyloxy;

with the proviso that ~~5,6-dihydrospiro[imidazo[1,2-b][3]benzazepine-11[11H],4'-piperidine]~~ 5,6-dihydrospiro[imidazo[2,1-b][3]benzazepine-11[11H],4'-piperidine] and pharmaceutically acceptable addition salts thereof, and ~~6,11-dihydro-1'-(phenylmethyl)-5H-spiro[imidazo[1,2-b][3]benzazepine-11,4'-piperidine]~~ 6,11-dihydro-1'-(phenylmethyl)-5H-spiro[imidazo[2,1-b][3]benzazepine-11,4'-piperidine] and pharmaceutically acceptable addition salts thereof are not included.

17. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 16 wherein L is hydrogen, C₁-₆alkyl, C₁-₆alkylcarbonyl, C₁-₆alkyloxycarbonyl or C₁-₆alkyl substituted with hydroxy, carboxyl, C₁-₆alkyloxy or C₁-₆alkyloxycarbonyl.

18. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 16 wherein L is C₁-₆alkyl substituted with aryl and C₁-₆alkyloxycarbonyl.

19. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 16 wherein -A-B- is a bivalent radical of formula -CH=CH-CH=CH- (a-3) or -CH=CH-Y- (a-2).
20. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 16 wherein Z is -(CH₂)_p- (b-1), -CH=CH- (b-2), or -CH₂-O- (b-4).
21. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 16, wherein L is hydrogen, C₁₋₆alkyl, hydroxyC₁₋₆alkyl, carboxyC₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkyloxycarbonyl, or C₁₋₆alkyloxycarbonylC₁₋₆alkyl.
22. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 16 wherein R¹ is hydroxyC₁₋₆alkyl, formyl, C₁₋₆alkyloxycarbonyl, C₁₋₆alkyloxyC₁₋₆alkyl, N(R³R⁴)C(=O)-, halo or hydrogen.
23. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 16 wherein the compound is 5,6-dihydrospiro[11H-imidazo[2,1-b][3]benzazepine-11,4'-piperidine]-3-carboxamide dihydrochloride;
1'-butyl-5,6-dihydrospiro[imidazo[2,1-b][3] benzazepine-11-[11H],4'-piperidine];
6,11-dihydro-1'-methylspiro[5H-imidazo[2,1-b][3]benzazepine-11,4'-piperidine] cyclohexylsulfamate(1:2);
6,11-dihydrospiro[5-imidazo[2,1-b][3]benzazepine-11,4'-piperidine]-3-methanol (E)-2-butenedioate (2:1);

3-chloro-6,11-dihydrospiro[5H-imidazo[2,1-b][3]benzazepine-11,4'-piperidine] (E)-2-butenedioate (1:1);

6,11-dihydro-3-(methoxymethyl)spiro[5H-imidazo[2,1-b][3]benzazepine-11,4'-piperidine] (E)-2-butenedioate (1:1);

6,11-dihydro-1'-(2-hydroxyethyl)spiro[5H-imidazo[2,1-b][3]benzazepine-11,4'-piperidine]-3-carboxamide;

6,11-dihydro-1'-methylspiro[5H-imidazo[2,1-b][3]benzazepine-11,4'-piperidine]-3-carboxamide monohydrate;

ethyl 3-(aminocarbonyl)-6,11-dihydro- α -phenylspiro[5H-imidazo[2,1-b][3]benzazepine-11,4'-piperidine]-1'-propanoate monohydrochloride;

3-(aminocarbonyl)-6,11-dihydrospiro[5H-imidazo[2,1-b][3]benzazepine-11,4'-piperidine]-1'-carboxylate;

spiro[10H-imidazo[1,2-a]thieno[3,2-d]azepine-10,4'-piperidine];

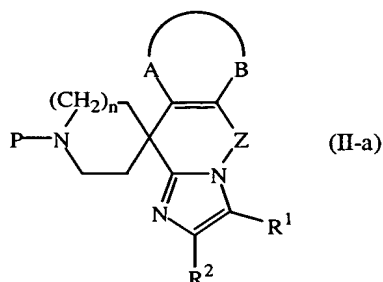
6,11-dihydrospiro[5H-imidazo[2,1-b][3]benzazepine-11,4'-piperidine]-2,3-dicarboxamide dihydrochloride monohydrate; or

a N-oxide, an addition salt, a quaternary amine or a stereochemically isomeric form thereof.

24. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, and as active ingredient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound as defined in claim 16.

25. (previously presented) A process of preparing a pharmaceutical composition, comprising mixing a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier with a therapeutically effective amount of a compound as defined in claim 16.

26. (currently amended) A compound of formula

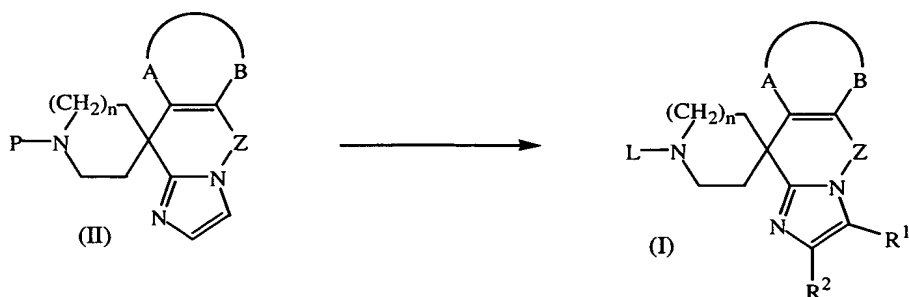


or a *N*-oxide, an addition salt, a quaternary amine or a stereochemically isomeric form thereof wherein P is a protective group and n, -A-B-, Z, R¹ and R² are defined as in claim 16, with the proviso that ~~6,11-dihydro-1'-(phenylmethyl)-5H-spiro[imidazo[1,2-b][3]-benzazepine-11,4'-piperidine]~~ 6,11-dihydro-1'-(phenylmethyl)-5H-spiro[imidazo[2,1-b][3]benzazepine-11,4'-piperidine] and pharmaceutically acceptable addition salts thereof are not included .

27. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 26 wherein P is benzyl.

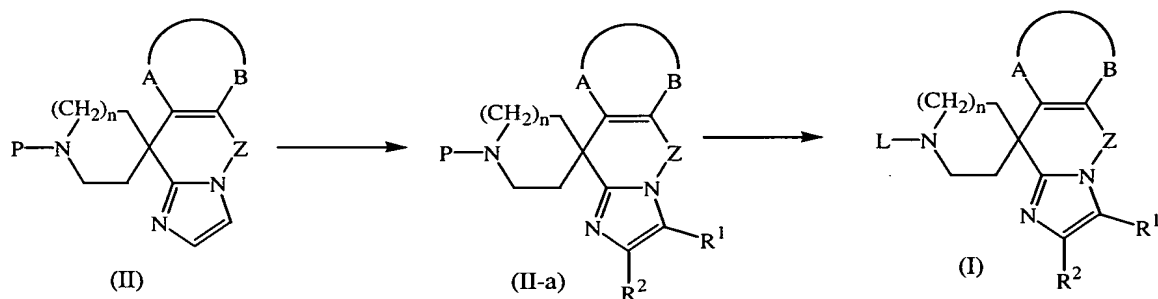
28. (previously presented) A process of preparing a compound as claimed in claim 16, comprising

- a) deprotecting an intermediate of formula (II), followed optionally by derivatizing either the piperidine moiety, or the imidazole moiety, or both the piperidine moiety and the imidazole moiety

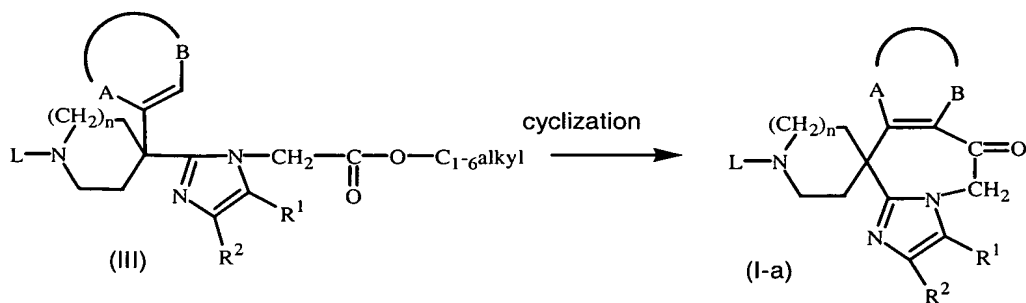


with P being a protective group;

- b) derivatizing an intermediate of formula (II) at the imidazole moiety, to form an intermediate of formula (II-a), followed by deprotecting the piperidine moiety, and followed optionally by derivatizing the piperidine moiety



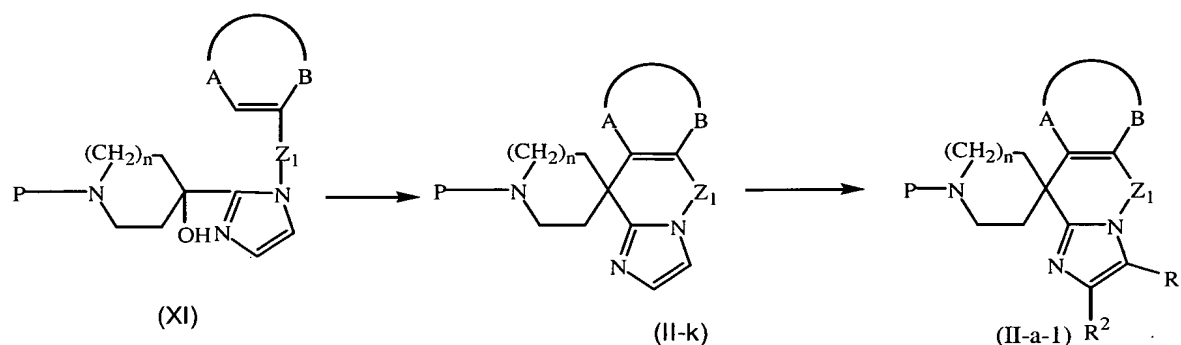
- c) cyclizing an intermediate of formula (III) in the presence of an appropriate acid, to form a compound of formula (I-a)



and, optionally, converting compounds of formula (I) and (I-a) into each other, and further, optionally, converting the compounds of formula (I), into a therapeutically active non-toxic acid addition salt by treatment with an acid, or into a therapeutically active non-toxic base addition salt by treatment with a base, or converting the acid addition salt form into the free base by treatment with alkali, or converting the base addition salt into the free acid by treatment with acid; and, optionally, preparing stereochemically isomeric forms or N-oxide forms thereof.

29. (previously presented) A process of preparing a compound as claimed in claim 27, comprising,

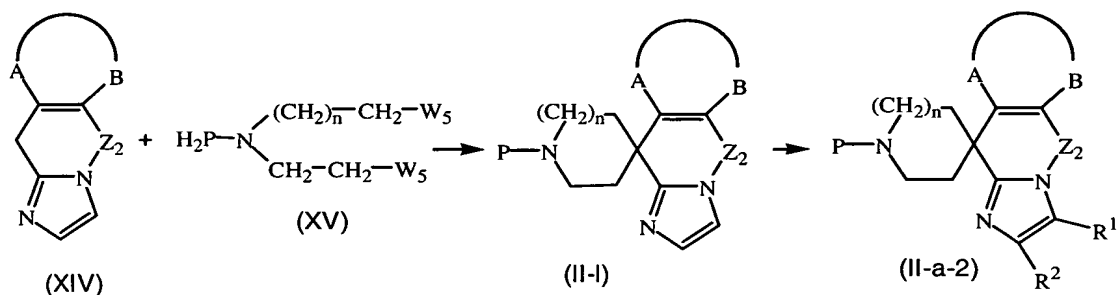
a) cyclizing a compound of formula (XI) with an appropriate acid, to form a compound of formula (II-k), followed optionally by derivatizing the imidazole moiety, to form a compound of formula (II-a-1)



with Z₁ being a bivalent radical of formula -(CH₂)_p-, wherein p is 1,2,3 or 4; and

b) reacting a tricyclic moiety of formula (XIV) with a reagent of formula (XV) under an inert atmosphere in a reaction inert solvent in the presence of a suitable base, to

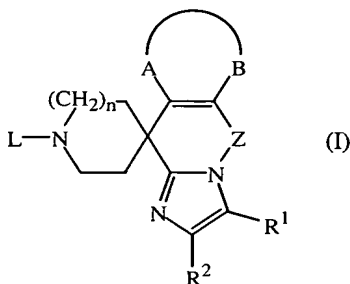
form a compound of formula (II-1), followed optionally by derivatizing the imidazole moiety to form a compound of formula (II-a-2)



with W₅ being a suitable leaving group, and Z₂ being a bivalent radical of formula -(CH₂)_p-, or -CH₂-O-, wherein p is 1,2,3 or 4.

30. (cancel).

31. (new) A method of treating a subject suffering from allergic disease, comprising administering to said subject a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula



or a N-oxide, an addition salt, a quaternary amine or a stereochemically isomeric form thereof wherein

R¹ is hydrogen, C₁₋₆alkyl, halo, formyl, carboxyl, C₁₋₆alkyloxycarbonyl, C₁₋₆alkylcarbonyl, N(R³R⁴)C(=O)-, N(R³R⁴)C(=O)N(R⁵)-, ethenyl substituted with carboxyl or C₁₋₆alkyloxycarbonyl, or C₁₋₆alkyl substituted with hydroxy, carboxyl, C₁₋₆alkyloxy,

C_{1-6} alkyloxycarbonyl, $N(R^3R^4)C(=O)-$, $C_{1-6}alkylC(=O)N(R^5)-$, $C_{1-6}alkylS(=O)_2N(R^5)-$ or $N(R^3R^4)C(=O)N(R^5)-$;

wherein each R^3 and each R^4 independently are hydrogen or C_{1-4} alkyl;

R^5 is hydrogen or hydroxy;

R^2 is hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, hydroxy C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkyloxy C_{1-6} alkyl, $N(R^3R^4)C(=O)-$, aryl or halo;

n is 1 or 2;

-A-B- represents a bivalent radical of formula

$-Y-CH=CH-$ (a-1);

$-CH=CH-Y-$ (a-2); or

$-CH=CH-CH=CH-$ (a-3);

wherein each hydrogen atom in the radicals (a-1) to (a-3) may independently be replaced by

R^6 wherein R^6 is selected from C_{1-6} alkyl, halo, hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkyloxy, ethenyl substituted with carboxyl or C_{1-6} alkyloxycarbonyl, hydroxy C_{1-6} alkyl, formyl, carboxyl or hydroxycarbonyl C_{1-6} alkyl;

each Y independently is a bivalent radical of formula $-O-$, $-S-$ or $-NR^7-$;

wherein R^7 is hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl;

Z is a bivalent radical of formula

$-(CH_2)_p-$ (b-1),

$-CH=CH-$ (b-2),

$-CH_2-CHOH-$ (b-3),

$-CH_2-O-$ (b-4),

$-CH_2-C(=O)-$ (b-5), or

-CH₂-C(=NOH)- (b-6),

with the proviso that the bivalent radicals (b-3), (b-4), (b-5) and (b-6) are connected to the nitrogen of the imidazole ring via their -CH₂- moiety;

wherein p is 1, 2, 3 or 4;

L is hydrogen; C₁₋₆alkyl; C₂₋₆alkenyl; C₁₋₆alkylcarbonyl; C₁₋₆alkyloxy carbonyl; C₁₋₆alkyl substituted with one or more substituents each independently selected from hydroxy, carboxyl, C₁₋₆alkyloxy, C₁₋₆alkyloxy carbonyl, aryl, aryloxy, cyano or R⁸HN- wherein R⁸ is hydrogen, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkyloxy carbonyl, or C₁₋₆alkylcarbonyl; or

L represents a radical of formula

-Alk-Y¹-Het¹ (c-1),

-Alk-NH-CO-Het² (c-2) or

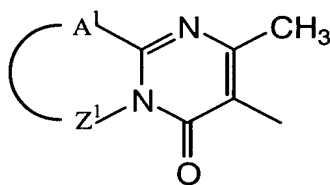
-Alk-Het³ (c-3) ; wherein

Alk represents C₁₋₄alkanediyl;

Y¹ represents O, S or NH;

Het¹ and Het² each represent furanyl, tetrahydrofuranyl, thienyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl or imidazolyl each optionally substituted with one or two C₁₋₄alkyl substituents; pyrrolyl or pyrazolyl optionally substituted with formyl, hydroxyC₁₋₄alkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, C₁₋₄alkyloxy carbonyl or with one or two C₁₋₄alkyl substituents; thiadiazolyl or oxadiazolyl optionally substituted with amino or C₁₋₄alkyl; pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl or pyridazinyl each optionally substituted with C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkyloxy, amino, hydroxy or halo; and

Het³ represents furanyl, tetrahydrofuranyl, thienyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl or imidazolyl each optionally substituted with one or two C₁₋₄alkyl substituents; pyrrolyl or pyrazolyl optionally substituted with formyl, hydroxyC₁₋₄alkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, C₁₋₄alkyloxycarbonyl or with one or two C₁₋₄alkyl substituents; thiadiazolyl or oxadiazolyl optionally substituted with amino or C₁₋₄alkyl; pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl or pyridazinyl each optionally substituted with C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkyloxy, amino, hydroxy, halo, 4,5-dihydro-5-oxo-1H-tetrazolyl substituted with C₁₋₄alkyl, 2-oxo-3-oxazolidinyl, 2,3-dihydro-2-oxo-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl or a radical of formula



wherein

A¹-Z¹ represents S-CH=CH, S-CH₂-CH₂, S-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂, CH=CH-CH=CH,

or CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂;

aryl is phenyl or phenyl substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents each independently selected from halo, hydroxy, C₁₋₄alkyl, polyhaloC₁₋₄alkyl, cyano, aminocarbonyl, C₁₋₄alkyloxy or polyhaloC₁₋₄alkyloxy.